Dr. A. R. Menon *(Minister for Rural Development):* ഉണ്ട്. It is one of his main items of work, and I have requested him, whenever he goes to instruct, to educate and preside over meetings so that he may instruct them.

മിസ്റ്റർ വി. കെ. കൃഷ്ണൻകുട്ടി: അധഃകൃത ഡിപ്പാർട്ട്മെണ്ടിനെ സംബന്ധിച്ചു മാത്രമല്ലാതെ വല്ല ഹൈ പൊളിറ്റിക്സിനെപ്പറ്റിയും അധഃകൃതസംരക്ഷകൻ പറഞ്ഞതായിട്ടു വല്ല റിപ്പോർട്ടും കിട്ടീട്ടുണ്ടോ?

ഡോക്ടർ എ. ആർ. മേനോൻ: ഇല്ല.

Mr. M. K. Devassy *(Adur):* No high politics involved in this Department?

Dr. A. R. Menon *(Minister for Rural Development):* What is the politics in this Department? I am not going to answer any hypothetical question. A question of "supposing" I am not going to answer.

Mr. C. V. Iyyu *(Kunnamkulam):* What will be the attitude of the Government if a resolution is passed against a Government order?

Dr. A. R. Menon *(Minister for Rural Development):* It will be considered at the proper time.

Mr. K. R. Viswambharan *(Ezhuvas-Talappalli):* Is it proper on the part of Government servants to enter into controversies on subjects in which the Legislative Council and the Advisory Committees constituted under the Legislative Council Rules have passed certain opinions?

Dr. A. R. Menon *(Minister for Rural Development):* If it violates the Standing Orders, he must be taken to task.

UPLIFT OF DEPRESSED CLASSES—EXPENDITURE INCURRED IN 1116 ON ACQUISITION OF SITES, ETC.

57. Mr. K. R. Viswambharan *(Ezhuvas-Talappalli):* Will Government be pleased to state.—

(*a*) the amount spent in 1116 for acquisition of sites for habitation of depressed classes from the funds allotted for "colonies" in the Uplift of the Depressed Classes Budget;

(*b*) amount spent in 1116 for other purposes from the same sub-head (colonies)?

Dr. A. R. Menon *(Minister for Rural Development):*

(*a*) Rs. 900—14—0.

(*b*) (1) Thatching and P. C. R. Rs. 1,530. The balance amount of Rs. 1,970 will be required for payment to

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contractors immediately. (2) House construction Rs. 440. The balance amount of Rs. 3,060 will be required for works already in progress as well as relief measures in depressed class colonies. (3) Allowances Rs. 724—4—0. (4) Reserve Rs. 71—15—4. The balance of Rs. 564 under this item will be required for payment on works already in progress.

Mr. K. R. Viswambharan *(Ezhuvas-Talappalli):* May I know, Sir, the reasons for restricting the amounts that are being spent on acquisition of fresh colonies which is perceptible in this amount. Generally, in rural areas where there are Government poromboke lands, they are taken. That has been the policy of the Department. Only where there is no such land available, acquisition proceedings are taken.

Mr. K. R. Viswambharan *(Ezhuvas-Talappalli):* Is it not the experience of the Government that such poromboke lands earmarked for these Depressed Class colonies are most of them uninhabitable?

Dr. A. R. Menon *(Minister for Rural Development):* I cannot say uninhabitable. They are not very productive. Many of them are habitable. But if you ask me whether the soil is good for gardening purposes, I may say that in some of them it is not.

Mr. K. R. Viswambharan *(Ezhuvas-Talappalli):* Is it not necessary when we fix a Depressed Class colony to see that the site must be in close proximity with industrial and agricultural centres?

Dr. A. R. Menon *(Minister for Rural Development):* The policy now adopted with regard to urban areas is that lands are taken and colonies are started. With regard to rural areas, it was thought better to give isolated small places, so that they may spread themselves. It is found difficult for them to find work if they live together in colonies. Certainly the policy with regard to urban areas is accepted. That is the policy pursued now in Ernakulam and Trippunittura. But that will not be possible in rural areas.

Mr. K. R. Viswambharan *(Ezhuvas-Talappalli):* Now, Rs. 10,00 is yearly being allotted to the Depressed Classes colonies and a large sum is spent in recurring charges to maintain these colonies. What is the objection in spending it for the acquisition of good sites?

Dr. A. R. Menon *(Minister for Rural Developwent):* What is to be done with the colonies already in existence? They are too big for these poor people. The mistake committed was in constructing those

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blocks of buildings. They are too big for the poor people and unless you render financial help, they will not be able to thatch the buildings. That is the position in which they find themselves. It is in order to avoid this that we are following the new policy.

Mr. K. R. Viswambharan *(Ezhuvas-Talappalli):* Now, according to the reports published by Government, there are nearly 100 Depressed Classes colonies. Is it the policy and intention of the Government to dole out freely sums for the maintenance and thatching purposes and for agricultural implements and all other things?

Dr. A. R. Menon *(Minister for Rural Development):* We have reduced this expenditure to a very great extent and unless the House desires otherwise it has to be continued. I do not know whether it is a good policy to stop all at once this grant. These people will be put to great difficulties. That is the only reason. Government would be very glad if they can devote this amount for some other purposes.

DEPRESSED CLASSES—ASSIGNMENT OF HOUSE SITES

58. Mr. K. R. Viswambharan *(Ezhuvas-Talappalli):* Will Government be pleased to state.—

(*a*) whether a resolution was passed by the Advisory Committee on Panchayats, Agriculture, etc., in its meeting held on 13th May 1941 to assign the house sites in the so-called Depressed Classes colonies to individual members who are occupying those sites;

(*b*) whether Government have carried into effect the resolution referred to in (*a*);

(*c*) whether the Depressed Classes occupants of the following colonies give any assessment to the Revenue Department in respect of the land they occupy.—

(1) Mathaipuram, Aranattukara;
(2) Sivaramapuram, Pullazhi;
(3) Herbert Nagar, Kanimangalam;
(4) Nadathra colony?

Dr. A. R. Menon *(Minister for Rural Development):*

(*a*) Yes.

(*b*) Necessary steps are being taken to give effect to the resolution.

(*c*) The Depressed Class occupants of Nadathra colony are giving assessment to the Revenue Department.

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